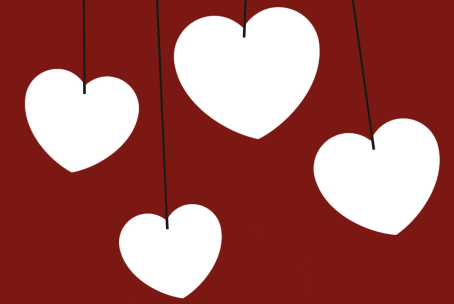


Get well soon, Heather!

LAMBDA



Happy Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

theLambda.ca

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SGA board calls for SGA president's resignation

BY ED VAILLEUX

After spending two-and-a-half hours outside the boardroom waiting, and then forty minutes answering the SGA board's questions, SGA President Charlie Andrews watched the board pass a motion, 20 to five, calling for his resignation on Feb. 8.

"I've expected this to happen before I even started as President of the SGA; I knew that specific members of the SGA board had intentions of planning such actions," Andrews said.

The Feb. 8 SGA board meeting lasted from 5 p.m. until just after 10 p.m. (a typical SGA board meeting lasts roughly two hours), and after all was said and done Andrews was on the receiving end of the board's criticism.

"It was time for sincere action to be taken to protect the organization, and I believe that's what the board did," SGA Senator Zach Courtemanche said.

A question by Courtemanche during question period, about tension within the SGA executive, sparked Michael Martino, SGA vice-president of issues, to table a motion for the board to go in-camera without the executive present. In-camera means that non-voting members of the board (including media) weren't allowed to be inside of the room.

Martino explained outside the meeting, during the in-camera period, that having the executive out of the room would allow the board to openly air concerns about

all members of the executive.

The SGA executive includes President Charlie Andrews, VP of Services Iain Park, SGA executive administrator Charles Wilson and Martino.

The tension in the office, according to Courtemanche, couldn't be ignored any longer.

"Those who work closely with the executive, or in the office, become quickly aware that there are tensions that exist, and that came to a head on Wednesday (at the meeting), when it was decided by the board and by the executive, that it was time to have a discussion about those tensions."

The board spent a little over three hours calling the executive into the room individually to ask them questions and allow them to express their own concerns.

The meeting was in-camera from 6 p.m. until roughly 9:45 p.m., and within that time the board developed two motions, which were presented when the meeting opened back up to the public.

The first motion defined a set of directives for the executive to follow, which includes having to report more frequently to the board and in more detail, holding weekly executive meetings and, more specifically, that President Charlie Andrews "collaborate productively with the Vice Presidents and relevant interest groups in all tasks undertaken, acting as a facilitator rather than taking unilateral action or micromanaging."

Andrews said he has always kept students in mind, while leading the SGA.

"The board should not be concerned over my leadership," Andrews said. "I have always put the students first in accordance to the SGA mission statement, which is the sole purpose of a student union."

The first motion passed with a vote of 26 for, and one against.

The second motion asked for Andrews' resignation.

The motion passed with a vote of 20 for, and five against.

SGA Senator Mark Mancini said the next step, if Andrews doesn't resign, will come after the board considers how closely the president follows the directives asked of him by the board, as well as the report that is to be presented on the subject at the next board meeting on Feb. 29.

Mancini said the decision and the vote showed that the board is working well together, and that the direction of the association is clear.

"The board did its job and presented a very united front," Mancini said. "It's very important that we look at the fact that the board made it very clear what the next step should be for the SGA."

The in-camera meeting doesn't sit well with Andrews.

"Despite all of the false and slanderous information discussed in the 'confidential' meeting, which was exposed; I am remaining focused and dedicated to the students."



Photo by Ed Veilleux

SGA President Charlie Andrews poses in a renovated bathroom at the Pub Down Under.

Senator Courtemanche said how Andrews handles the board's decision will show how the SGA president feels about the SGA board.

"If President Andrews decides not to follow the request from the board to resign, it will be very clear that he is disagreeing with a board decision that was supported 20 to five. Excluding abstentions, that is an 80 per cent mandate by the board. Mister Andrews would be explicitly stating that he does not have an interest in following the wishes of an 80 per cent united board."

The SGA president said his

attention is focused on helping his constituents.

"I am focused on caring for the students of the SGA, protecting their student rights, and striving to ensure they have a meaningful experience at Laurentian University. I am accountable to the students of the SGA, and I will always support them to the best of my abilities."

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SGA stability, please

Waiting outside of an in-camera meeting on Feb. 8, for three hours, wasn't how I planned to spend my Wednesday night, but in the end it proved to hold much more of a bang than a whimper.

When the dust settled, and the meeting resumed, SGA President Charlie Andrews was on the short end of two motions presented by the SGA board.

The board gave directives to essentially handcuff the president: asking for full disclosure on all actions of the executive and demanding he begin "acting as a facilitator rather than taking unilateral action."

The second motion, the bigger bomb, asked blatantly for his resignation.

Both motions passed at the board level, although Andrews made it clear on Feb. 9, when asked about it in his office, that he has no plans to resign.

Talking to members of the board after the meeting, seven or eight of them (everyone I talked to) agreed that this action was necessary. Some went further to say it had only been a matter of time and everyone knew



ED VEILLEUX

this would happen, while others expressed sadness at how things played out.

Whether you're an SGA student who is pro-Charlie or anti-Charlie (or a board member of either view), it's clear the SGA is lacking in stability.

It's easy for people to throw Andrews under the bus, and I guess that can be the price for being the leader of any organization or team, but there is a bigger issue at hand.

The SGA, in both of my years at Laurentian, has been in obvious turmoil at all times.

Since 2011, two SGA executives have been threatened with impeachment. Both chose to resign instead of facing impeachment trials. The SGA's most important

and influential staff position – formerly the executive director and now called the executive administrator – has also been controversially changed.

And, let's not forget the tension inside of the SGA office, which served as the catalyst for the three-plus hour in-camera meeting in the first place.

As a student, one has to wonder when it ends. Some stability would be nice.

Maybe it's idealistic to think there would ever be a board that would be completely happy with their executive, but one can dream.

Even at the board level, it's obvious the SGA has its problems.

A large portion of the SGA board members (having talked to over half of them about it) aren't happy with the current structure of meetings, and some have deeper concerns about the professionalism displayed by board members.

Taking in a meeting provides a small picture of what is wrong with the SGA. The board suffers from a lack of communication (many brought-up issues surprise a majority of the board), a sometimes

disinterested membership (cellphone usage and chatting run rampant during meetings) and several members have their own agenda and interests at heart, as opposed to those of the general membership.

If a student government is to function properly, there's no doubt that the executive have to work with each other, and the board, to address concerns and to enhance the student experience.

If the 30-some person SGA board is to represent its 5,300-plus members right, changes need to be made.

Andrews wanted a unified front when he took office, in hopes of having the SGA on the same page. It now seems the board is hoping to write its own book, without the president.

The real questions that need to be asked are simple -- "is fighting the board's resignation request the best thing for the SGA?" and "Was this a smart time for the board to pull the trigger?"

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LU students march to drop fees

BY MATT RABEY

On Feb. 1, 61 students from Laurentian University boarded two buses at 7:30 a.m., bound for the Drop Fees protest that would begin at The University of Toronto and end at Queen's Park. This contingent joined with thousands of other fellow students to protest and demand that student fees are dropped.

During the ride, organizers briefed the students on the day's events and distributed hats, T-shirts and leaflets that included information, such as chants that would be shouted while marching. The students arrived in Toronto at noon and signs were distributed ranging from professionally-made to homemade signs, which sported slogans like, "warning, starving students ahead."

After the equipping, an enthusiastic group of U of T students greeted Laurentian University by shouting, "Sudbury is in the house!" Laurentian students surged forward to combine with other protestors from post-secondary institutions across Ontario.

The protest began in front of Convocation Hall on the historic U of T campus and picked up momentum as more and more people congregated around a flatbed truck that had a DJ playing music, in the back of it. At this time, between tracks, a special guest from the Chilean student movement spoke via translator saying that students from around the world must be united and fight together for their rights. After the speech, the volume of the crowd grew, with drums hammering and students yelling, "The students united will never be



Photo by Ryan Neal

Shawna McNaughton and Michelle Cyr, two Psychology students from the Laurentian University at Georgian Campus, were at the protest.

defeated!" the crowd pushed on. The thousands-strong crowd was controlled by volunteer student marshals that ensured that the march stayed on track towards the ultimate destination of Queen's Park. As the movement pressed on, signs of support for the students could be seen from various unions and workers movements with representatives from PSAC, CUPE and the Canadian Labour congress in attendance, with banners waving.

As the column passed the government buildings on Wellesley

Street West, more of a police presence was evident as numerous officers were in place at the entrances to the buildings where onlookers could be seen viewing the protest from their office windows.

The protest halted briefly in front of Whitney Block to ensure that government officials heard their voices, but was soon told by police to continue on. Now on the public streets of Toronto, the attention being given to the student movement grew as bystanders looked on from coffee shops and

street corners. Although there were some who were annoyed by the streets being disrupted by the march, the majority of onlookers were supportive and believed that students were doing the right thing. After turning onto Bay Street and then College, the activists moved to Queen's Park where more speakers addressed the students.

Speakers included the Conservative Critic for education, CFS chairperson Sandy Hudson and Laurentian University's very own Chloé Hallée-Théoret. During her address, Hallée-

Théoret spoke about people from the north of Ontario having to move far away from their homes for a quality education. She continued and spoke of the issues facing Francophone students such as the limit of two colleges or two universities in Ontario that could accommodate with classes in French.

The time was 4 p.m. and with the protest drawing to conclusion Laurentian students departed the park to board the buses for the return trip to Sudbury.

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Students share their thoughts on the protest

BY MATT RABEY

Tuition fees have been on the rise in Ontario, and on Feb. 1 post-secondary students from across the province took to the streets of Toronto to protest. One of those students is Laurentian University's Chloé Hallée-Théoret who is president of the AEF (Association of Francophones Students of Laurentian University), was one of the organizers of the drop fees protest. She said was pleased with the amount of students she saw uniting together in Toronto and added, "The good turnout makes people realize that you are a part of something bigger.

Also, student fees suck, fuck les frais!"

Students in attendance were there for more reasons than to just drop fees as Shawna McNaughton and Michelle Cyr, two Psychology students from the Laurentian University at Georgian Campus said, "We are here because both of us require OSAP, but due to the process involved in attaining it, we are not eligible to receive it to help pay for our education."

The protest itself was highly vocalized by people like Shaun Shepherd, who for the majority of the protest was shouting from the back of the truck that lead the march.

When asked what message he would like to pass on to his fellow protestors, UTSU (University of Toronto Students Union) VP External and organizer Shaun Shepherd said, "Yell from the diaphragm!"

With dancing, chanting and loud music playing, the atmosphere was a combination of a concert and a protest. Second-year Math major Catherine Moreau made the trip down and said: "The energy was unlike anything I have ever experienced before, with this being my first protest."

Sixty-one students from Laurentian University's Sudbury campus made the trip

to Toronto to take part in the protest against tuition fees. took part in the fight to drop tuition fees by making the trip to Toronto. Tom Sutton was encouraged by this and directed his focus towards those that went. "Its really cool to be from Sudbury and to join up with others from around the province in solidarity. The group dynamic in Toronto was incredible. The people knew how far their fellow students had travelled to be there and they showed their appreciation. I commend all the students who attended the protest for their commitment."

Laurentian introduces strategic plan

BY KALLIE BERENS

Laurentian's official strategic plan for 2012 to 2017 was formally presented in the Alumni Hall on Feb. 6. Only five pages long, the strategy plan contains forty key points designed to "shape Laurentian," according to Laurentian University President and Vice-Chancellor Dominic Giroux.

"My immediate emotion is excitement, and at the same time it's pride," said Jean-Paul Rains, alumni and current social media coordinator for Laurentian University.

The forty key points are grouped under five categories: student engagement and satisfaction, national recognition, university of choice, community responsiveness and organizational excellence.

"I was glad to see that there is a fairly comprehensive plan," said senator Zachary Courtemanche, who was a student member of the steering committee involved in the planning process. "You do see a lot of academic material, and you see a lot of campus-focused, student-focused and community presence initiatives which was good to see as well."

20 consultations took place in the Spring, and 20 finalized consultations took place in the Fall of 2011. Specific consultations took place for "students, staff, faculty, community members and with partners in Barrie," said Rains. "There's a huge process that took quite a while with a lot of contributors." Rains also said that the staff consultations were "packed."

One element in the strategy plan includes the reintroduction of varsity men's and women's hockey teams at Laurentian.

"We had a sign up sheet and that was one of the pages that team members on the committee put their names down for, and it was top of the line for some people," Rains said. "It's a big win for us but also for the people of Sudbury."

The last time Laurentian had a varsity hockey team was in 2001.

"It's something that is in our nature and culture to have at the university, and we have so many talented hockey players in the region that want to come to school at Laurentian but want to continue their hockey careers - now they will be able to continue both in Sudbury," said Rains. "For us it's really taking advantage of everything we already have and just putting it together."

David Robinson, an Economics professor, thinks that the strategy plan "is the most successful of them all," and adds that key points that put an emphasis on the school of mines and ecology programs "are all solid identity choices that no one has had the nerve to make before."

More information about the School of Mines was released with the strategic plan. The school, announced in 2011, is now seeking a founding director to replace the interim director, Dr. Francois Caron.

A plan was also put in place to turn the entire university campus "wireless," giving all students access to secure wireless internet

in every building.

In addition to make Laurentian "100 per cent wireless," other technologically-inclined points, such as using new IT programs, were laid out in the plan.

Laurentian also plans to open a "front door/welcoming centre, with effective signage in French, English, Ojibway," as part of the aspiration to continue "attracting the best students, staff and faculty from across Ontario and around the world."

Another point to help bring forth that aspiration is the plan to increase international enrollment from 6.1 per cent in 2011 to 8 per cent by 2017.

Although a new strategic plan is announced every five years, Rains says that this strategic plan is different from the others laid out at different universities. "What sets our strategic plan apart from the others is that we have measurable outcomes," said Rains, saying that having these measures in place keeps the university "on track."

This refers to the 40 specific targets outlined in the plan, under



Photo by Kallie Berens

Emilie Thibault, first year bio med student who spoke at the strategic plan launch on behalf of Laurentian students.

the five pressure points. With each pressure point, there are "aspirations," followed by a plan to have these fulfilled by 2017.

The strategic plan can be found in full on Laurentian's website,

located at www.laurentian.ca/strategicplan.

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Airbandz raises \$21,000 for cancer research

BY WILLIE POLL

Laurentian's annual Airbandz event took place on Saturday Feb. 11, which consisted of eight teams competing to say that they are the best "airband."

Each team had a six or less minute dance routine to a mash up of songs. The teams really had to bring it this year as each team had a large variety of costumes, acts, songs, and dance moves.

"I couldn't believe how amazing it was, they all looked like professionals up there," Rachel Weir, an audience member, said.

The event raised 19000 originally,

however during the performance students were able to raise another \$2,000 on raffles and last minute ticket sales to bring the total number up to \$21,000 for cancer research.

The competition was hard this year and the judges needed extra time to determine the winners, however this year's 2012 Airbandz winners is "The Hangover." Following "The Hangover" came "TNT" in second, and "Old School" in third.

"There was a lot of rushing back stage," Jaime Kearnan, a backstage helper, said. "Each team knew what they had to do and got it done fast, they had to change

costumes in a matter of seconds. I couldn't even imagine the pressure of having to get dressed in 4 seconds or less but despite the stress and chaos, every team did amazing."

This year a new award was introduced named after the founder of Airbandz, Michael "Dex" Brown. The award is given to someone who shows amazing spirit and is truly happy to be on the stage and raising money for cancer research. This year, the first winner ever, is Kelsey Anthony.

"I can't believe I won the Michael 'Dex' Brown Spirit Award, I am honoured to be the first person to win this award, it's just

unbelievable. I cannot believe that in my first year I've been recognized for things that so many other people deserve, to be pointed out in a student body of 10,000 is the most unbelievable feeling in the world. I owe everything to the resident life staff, bull, Andy and every part of the staff as well as my RA Chad Scanladn for helping me get where I am today."

This years 2012 Airbandz was a large success, bringing the total amount of money raised for airbandz in the past nine years to over \$100,000.

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LUHS hosts history of beer event

BY KALLIE BERENS

"There really isn't a bad beer, in my opinion," said Brendan Merritt, a representative for Creemore Springs Brewery. Merritt spoke to a crowd of approximately 60 to 70 people at the history of beer event, held by the Laurentian University History Society on Feb. 6.

The event was the first of 2012 for the History Society, also known as LUHS, who also held a "history of tea" event last October.

Merritt led a discussion on the wide history of beer, starting with beer appearing in ancient times, up until the late 2000s.

"The beer industry today is the wine industry 25 years ago," said Merritt, setting up his history of beer timeline.

At one point, Merritt read an anonymous quote. "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy," which was met with a room full of applause.

Admission for the event was six dollars - "a pretty damn good deal," said event-goer Jamie Rendle, a third-year Geology student. Six dollars covered admission to the event, with two slices of pizza, a sample of Creemore Springs beer, and counted as one entry into the door prize draws.

Merritt taught event-goers to practice the proper method of tasting beer - "take a sip of beer, hold it in the mouth, roll it around the sides of the tongue, breathe in through the nose and swallow at the same time, then exhale through the mouth," he said, and then paused as participants practiced and exchanged laughs.

When discussing the flavour of beer Creemore Springs has, Merritt said that people often described it as "slightly honey flavoured, and nutty," although one audience member discovered a "citrusy" taste.

According to Merritt, the average North American in 1922 consumed 22.7 gallons of beer, but Canada and the United States combined only ranks 13th in the world in terms of consumption.

Door prizes and raffle ticket winners were



Photo by Nathan Knott

Event-goers got to sample Creemore Springs beer at the history of beer event on Feb.6.

picked nearing the end of the night. Two fourth-year History students, Shelby Evans and Christina Jobst, bought many raffle tickets to ensure their chances of winning a prize. Evans did win a prize, but when she was informed of her win, she was currently talking to Merritt and yelled "I'm learning."

After the draw, Evans said that Merritt was helping her with a paper she was writing for her fourth-year class, on Molson Canadian's infamous beer commercials. When asked what Jobst's favourite part of the night was, she said that she "likes History events," and "getting out with my History friends."

Amber White, vice-president and public relations representative for the Laurentian University History Society, said that this was the club's "heavy event" for the semester. "We might do a few small lectures throughout the rest of the semester though," she added.

LUHS currently has more than 100

members.

"We're lucky and proud of that but we know that we could still grow and connect with students. It's important that students can find something to connect with," White said.

White also credits the LUHS executive, including members Rebecca Morrissey and Lizette Frappier, as well as "great support" from the history department staff.

She said that the staff of the History department will "buy tickets," and if they need something, "professors will support it in their classrooms."

Since its foundation in 1965 - "one of the older, big bad boys on campus," said White - LUHS has been "consistent" with their goals. The club's constitution was rewritten two years ago.

"It basically detailed that we wanted to be a presence on campus but we also wanted to connect with the outside community. You don't have to be a History major or have a

History degree, you just need to have a passion for anything to do with History."

When asked what her favourite beer is, White laughed. At first, she said that based on the events of the evening, Creemore Springs was her favourite, and then added that "to have a favourite is like having to pick a favourite child."

She mentioned that on a trip to Brussels with her husband, she "fell in love" with Belgium beers, and said that she liked "any monk beer."

At the end of the night, Deirdre Elliott, a third-year Anthropology student, said that it was a "very successful first experience" with a LUHS event, and said that she "will be on the lookout for the next awesome event."

For more information, check out the Laurentian University History Society (LUHS) group on Facebook.
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Sustainability Week: Organic Mic Night

BY LIANNA PISANI

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, the Games Room was filled with students anxious to share thoughts on sustainability. It also housed a table of organic snacks, all made by the students who attended.

The evening was organized by the Sustainable Earth Club in conjunction with the English Arts Society as a part of LU's Sustainability Week.

"Sustainability Week was directed towards introducing or sustaining the idea that we are all interconnected, that our actions are not only affecting us. With our presentations I hoped to inspire students to use what they have already learned, seen, and thought about in a critical way that encourages their own ideas about how they treat others and the world around them," says Sarah Williams, President of the

Sustainable Earth Club.

Williams describes the evening's theme as Environment. There was great discussion surrounding current food production methods, and the manner in which these methods affect the environment. Presentations were given by Irina Cividino, who has experience with permaculture, and Kayla Cornthwaite, a cyclist. Both are former LU students.

With more than twenty people in attendance, Williams calls the event a success. "The goal of Organic Mic Night was to open up the space for students to share their opinions/thoughts about our world and our movement in it through artistic creativity." The Sustainable Earth Club is considering hosting future Mic Nights, with the hopes of even more students getting involved.
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Aramark plans to correct French errors in Res Xpress menu

BY KALLIE BERENS

“Biftèque tranchée et marinée de Cajun,” translated into English, means “marinated by Cajun,” which is supposed to mean “sliced Cajun marinated steak.”

This is only one of the many mistakes in the French Res Xpress menu that Aramark came out with in early January.

Three Laurentian students - Michel Laforge, a Francophone graduate student, Patrick Wright, Vice President of Sociocultural Activities and Services with the AEF, and Chloé Hallée-Théoret, President of the AEF - combed the Res Xpress menu and found 44 grammatical and spelling errors.

“Stuff like this happens all the time, we’ve just stopped making a big deal out of it - that’s how prevalent it is,” Laforge said.

The menus were sent out as one of “Laurentian University Announcements,” on Jan. 31 to every student’s Laurentian email accounts, promoting their new late-night food delivery service “Res Xpress.” Laforge found the menu, and noticed what he described as the “most flagrant” of errors.

Laforge, in his fifth year at Laurentian, opened up the menu “for a laugh,” he said, because he noticed the errors on menus in the Great Hall cafeteria before.

“I’ve always seen stuff like this, it’s worse than it’s ever been this year,” said Laforge. “These are easy mistakes that they could’ve just gone to Laurentian Translation Services to fix.”

Laforge, Hallée-Théoret and Wright all agreed that Aramark must be using Google Translate, a free website that translates sections of text without applying grammatical rules.

However, translating the English menu into French brings up completely different

words.

The first page of the English menu reads “You call, we deliver right to your door.” After inputting that exact sentence into Google Translate, the French translation is “Vous appelez, nous livrons à votre porte.” The French Res Xpress menu says “Vous Appelez, Nous deliverons jusqu’à votre portre,” which is much different.

The students pointed out that “deliverons” is not a word, and “portre” is also not a word. It is clear from the examples above that Aramark did not use Google Translate for their menus, nor three other free translators on the Internet - translation2.paralink.com, worldlingo.com, or babelfish.yahoo.com.

Food Service Director, Gale Ghougassian, claimed that their translation process involved someone who is “not fluent” to translate the menu. The translator hand-wrote the menu, and when it was typed up some errors were made with the typing.

Laforge wrote a comment on the Laurentian Dining Services Facebook page with the intention of letting them know about the mistakes. After his comment, Laforge said that it was deleted, and he was blocked from making any further comments on the page. Wright was also prohibited from posting any content on the page after he also made a comment regarding their translations.

Ghougassian defended the choice to delete the comments and block them from posting. “We use Facebook to communicate better,” Ghougassian said, “We never wanted you to post comments, we just

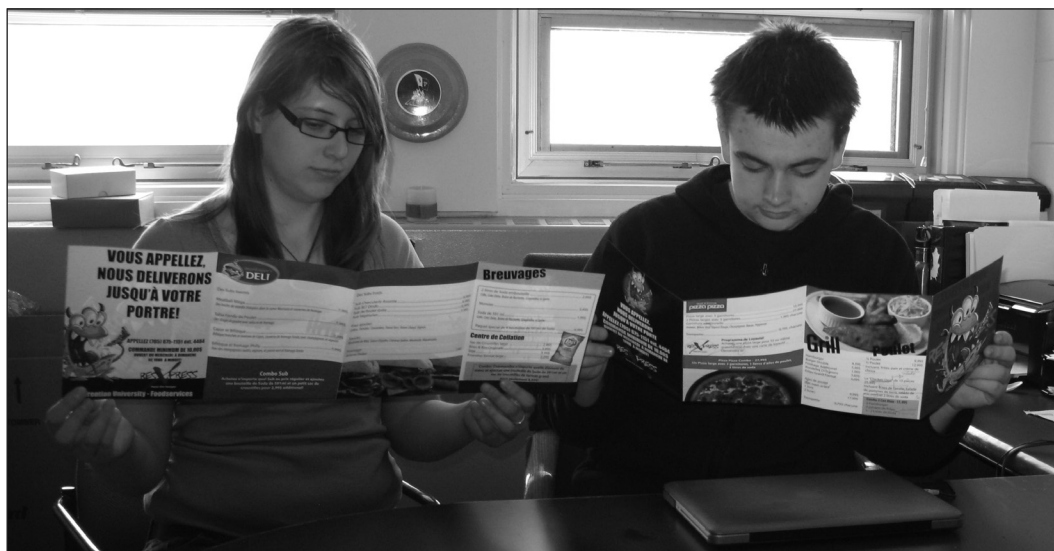


Photo by Kallie Berens

Chloé Hallée-Théoret and Patrick Wright read the Res Xpress menu.

wanted the info to be there.”

It wasn’t until after Wright approached Le Voyageur, a local newspaper, with the story that Ghougassian called Wright with the intention of rectifying their mistakes.

According to Ghougassian, Wright did not return his call.

Hallée-Théoret, also a member of the food services committee, brought the mistakes to Aramark’s attention in the last meeting. According to Hallée-Théoret, Aramark was “unaware” that Laurentian provides translation services on-campus, and said that they would be sure to use it “in the future.”

Ghougassian said that they did not use it before because the service “was not offered” to them. Ghougassian also went on to say that although they are “a part” of Laurentian, Aramark is a separate business and is not a department of Laurentian.

Aramark is a Canadian-wide business that operates out of Toronto, and, according to their website, offers services to more than 400 000 students across the country.

Ghougassian feels that the food services at Laurentian deal with “more scrutiny than appreciation,” and considers some of the feedback to be an “attack,” and describes it as “vicious.”

Laforge brought up the idea of paying a student to help with the translations.

Ghougassian said that this is “no problem at all,” and encourages student feedback. He mentioned the suggestions box in the corner of the Great Hall as well.

He says that they are working on a new version of the menu with the mistakes corrected, to be released in “about two weeks.”

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LU Pride Week approaches

BY LIANNA PISANI

Laurentian’s Pride Association has been preparing for LU’s Pride Week, taking place from Mar. 5 to 9.

“Our main goal is to promote the Laurentian Pride Association, and to get a lot of support, and knowledge out that we do have a presence on campus,” says James Spires, Vice-President of the Pride Association. They are welcoming everyone to participate in the events, find out more about the Pride Association at LU, and what they offer for students.

The Pride Association is hoping to involve as many LU students as possible. They will be hosting a number of various events

throughout the week. Monday, Mar 5, will kick off the week with a 1 Girl 5 Gays Discussion Panel (the Laurentian version of the hit MTV Canada show), and the association is also looking into hosting a Passion Party. Tuesday, Mar. 6, everyone will meet at Zigs for Dirty Bingo. There will be a Dirty Bake Sale on Wednesday, Mar. 7, and a lesbian-themed beer and bowling event at Plaza Bowl on Thursday, Mar. 8. Friday, Mar. 9, they are hosting a Movie Night, and encourage everyone to meet at Zigs Saturday night for a Glow in the Dark White T-Shirt event.

The Pride Association is hoping to extend support and keep a presence on campus even

after Pride Week. They are currently looking for a permanent home for the Pride flag which was signed during last year’s Pride Week.

There will also be bracelets available for purchase. “We purchased a bunch of silicone bracelets that say ‘Pride LU Supporter’ which we are going to be selling throughout Pride Week,” says Spires. The proceeds of the bracelets will go toward the Pride Office on campus. “We want to make the Pride Room better in terms of resources and comfort,” Jesse Depatie, President of the Pride Association, explains.

They plan to meet with those interested in being on the 1 Girl 5 Gays panel, and

welcome everyone to contribute to the bake sale. They are also looking for volunteers who wish to help decorate the campus and spread the Pride Week spirit. If you are interested in being involved with any of these events, or have any questions, you may contact the Pride Association at pride@laurentian.ca, or on the Pride Laurentian Facebook page.

Depatie has high hopes for Pride Week this year, and a message he hopes to get across. “There’s a little bit of a stigma that’s involved with Pride that says you have to be gay to be a part of it, or you’re gay if you’re seen in the Pride Office. It’s definitely not true.”

lambda@laurentian.ca

Laurentian memes hit campus

BY WILLIE POLL

Thanks to Laurentian University memes there is now a place to post all of Laurentian's quirks and hidden secrets. The Facebook page allows for anyone to post pictures relating to Laurentian University.

No one knows who began Laurentian memes, and it is becoming quite the mystery. The Facebook page has over 1400 likes with over 1500 people talking about it.

"I started the page after noticing a friend on Facebook had liked the Nipissing University Memes page (NipU Memes)," LU memes creator wrote. "I decided that with all it's quirks, Laurentian needed a page too and that's how the page was born on Jan.26. The next day I recruited a friend to join in and I began by publishing the first 8 memes. We had plans of posting more but in the next few days I noticed a few other schools starting their own pages and I decided to launch the page. With no invites to preserve anonymity (at this time only myself and the friend I recruited know who is behind this page. Needless to say we don't fly together) and only one wall post

on the Laurentian residence page (since deleted), LU memes went viral basically overnight."

With over 100 photos to show Laurentians humorous side the Facebook page has attracted a lot of viewers as well as attributers, as anyone is allowed to post a meme to the page. The page has become quite talked about and popular around campus.

"My favourite meme overall would probably be Uber Frosh," LU memes creator wrote. "There's a few on our page that are done right and apply perfectly to LU that I think are awesome. Personally, I think LU memes is so popular for a few reasons. First, they're specific; everyone at Laurentian can relate and those on the outside cannot. It's almost like an exclusive club where we can all come together and poke fun at all aspects of student life here in Sudbury. We share the best and the worst of it, and though I've received a few complaints via meme about launching the page before midterms start, I think we all need a break from studying sometimes."

Laurentian memes is continuously growing, and talks

for a twitter page are also in the air. Laurentian memes has went up 200 likes in the past week, and does not seem to be slowing down.

"As for my overall viewpoint on LU Memes," LU memes creator wrote. "I think they have been so successful because there is no ulterior motive behind them. I created the page so that while you can poke fun at profs or programs or campus amenities (or lack thereof), all the memes are meant to be taken with a grain of salt. If you're going to laugh at one goodhearted meme, you should be able to laugh at them all. I think everything I've already said explains why we got to over 1,000 likes in such a short period of time. The term "meme" originated well before the advent of the Internet as a term to describe the sharing of an idea within a culture. Social media just makes it so much more accessible and going viral like we have was bound to happen. We may have one of the largest campuses in terms of overall area, but we definitely have been able to develop a tight-knit culture as Voyageurs."

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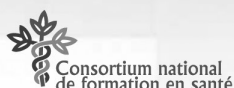
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LU professors take part in science cafe

BY NINA NESSETH

On Feb. 7, Laurentian University biology professors Dr. Frank Mallory and Dr. Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde were both invited to sit as panelists as part of Science North's Science Café series. The public was invited to the Laughing Buddha to participate in a discussion on science.

The topic for this particular café was love, sex, and attraction, and the café intended to explore these concepts from biological, physiological and social perspectives.

Mallory was invited for his previous experience teaching courses such as Biological Aspects of Human Sexuality and Animal Behaviour, as well as for previous research on the reproductive strategies of a number of mammalian species, including lemmings and wolves. Schulte-Hostedde was invited for his experience as an evolutionary and behavioural biologist and for his research involving Darwinian fitness, sexual

selection, and reproductive success – particularly in mammals.

A third panelist, Dr. Michael White, is a psychotherapist with a private practice here in Sudbury. He has been providing counseling to couples since 1988, and is currently working on a self-help book entitled Things You Really Need in a Relationship. White's speeches were short and few, but they were highly relevant to audience questions regarding the social aspects of love and relationships.

Science North's next Science Café will be held on Mar. 6th at the Laughing Buddha, starting at 7:30 pm. March's topic will discuss genetics' past, present, and future, and will feature Laurentian and NOSM's Dr. Amadeo Parissenti as one of the guest panelists. For more information about the Science Café series, visit www.sciencenorth.ca/cafe nx_nesseth@laurentian.ca

Playwrights share work

BY NINA NESSETH

The Sudbury Theatre Centre presented an evening of playscript readings by its writers' group, the Playwrights' Junction, on Feb. 6th. The night featured ten short pieces and excerpts of works all written by local talent.

The members of the junction - Lara Bradley, Adric Cluff, Paulette Dahl, Amanda Darling, Cora Eckert, Catherine Jaftha, Janine Oloman, Cal Rodya, Michael Shepherd, and Lawrence Van Beek - were invited by the STC last fall to take part in weekly sessions to develop fledgling stories and to hone their writing skills. The showcase was an opportunity for the writers to share their works-in-progress with an audience.

Over the course of the evening, audience members were treated to a

wide variety of stories - performed by local actors as well as by some of the Junction members themselves. From the tale a young couple on their honeymoon meeting a lively older couple, to a talking hotel room, to a nuclear disaster in a long-forgotten Northern Ontario missile silo, the works spanned comedy, drama, and the spaces in between.

"The evening caps off a tremendously successful first season for the inaugural playwrights' group," said Matthew Heiti in a press release. Heiti, STC's playwright-in-residence, is the coordinator of the Junction and since this past fall has been guiding its members in their pursuit of developing local voices and stories for the stage.

"It's an initiative we hope to continue in future years." nx_nesseth@laurentian.ca

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Library rotunda holds Clothing Swap

BY LIANNA PISANI

In correspondence with LU's Sustainability Week, the Sustainable Earth Club hosted a Clothing Swap from 10AM-4PM on Wed, Feb. 8 and Thurs. Feb. 9.

The Clothing Swap is a practical version of reducing, reusing, and recycling. It allowed students to add to their wardrobes without spending any money or creating any waste. "The purpose of a clothing swap is to have the opportunity to clean out your closet and get rid of some clothes that aren't getting used anymore. In exchange (and without exchange) you get to replace those clothes with gently used, free ones. It's simple, come with clothes you don't use and leave with clothes you will use," explains Angele Sabourin, active member and Secretary of the Sustainable Earth Club.

The clothes displayed in the J.N. Desmarais library rotunda were donated largely by The Free Store—another Sustainable Earth initiative—as well as a number of students. Sabourin received 6 large donations, and a few smaller donations, during the total 12 hours of the event.

Sabourin is very pleased with the student involvement and feedback at this event, and is already planning another Swap. "There was a lot of support from the volunteers who helped with organization of clothes and talking to students. I can only see a better outcome next time and the time after that. On behalf of the SEC, I will be organizing another swap next month for all those who missed out on this one, and this time I will make sure that it is better advertised so that students can get ready beforehand."

lambda@laurentian.ca

Discussing the term 'slut'

BY WILLIE POLL

On Thursday, Feb. 9, a presentation and discussion was held to discuss the term "slut". The presentation was given by Laurentian's own Dr. Alexis Shotwell, and Dr. Gary Kinsman.

The presentation included discussions about what the term actually means and how they have been socially constructed.

The event was one in a chain of events to bring about sexual assault awareness and will be followed by a march on Apr. 7.

"There are numerous things that just focus on sexual assault or violence to women," Jessica Lamirande, event host, said. "But these are usually one day a year and then you move on, you go about your life, and then the next year you take the time to think about it again so we did a series just to make sure that momentum is always going and that we always keep up the discussion about what is going on."

The discussion included sexual assault against

women, violence against women, the history of feminism, the history of women abuse, as well as gay rights and awareness. The presentation also touched on STI's and women's sexual health.

The presentation as well as the march in April were sparked by gender abuse, as well as the "slut walk" which originated in Toronto Canada.

Both Dr. Shotwell, as well as Dr. Kinsman brought up points about reclaiming the word slut, reclaiming the word queer, gender abuse, racial abuse, and sexual education in schools.

"I found it quite interesting how many people have had failed sexual education and how little it is actually taught in schools," an audience member said. "I think we definitely need to focus on that as STI's and sexual health are a big deal and people are more afraid of pregnancy then contracting an STI and hardly know anything about HIV or AIDS."

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James Bond is Punisher



BY RON GUILLET

James Bond has obvious similarities with British Secret Service operative 007, but his play on the soccer field resembles that of the Punisher.

Frank Castle, a.k.a. the Punisher, is known in the Marvel universe for his aggressive tactics and relentless approach.

Bond, who played in his final season as the captain of the Laurentian Voyageurs' men's soccer team, exemplifies a winning attitude on the field with his physical brand of soccer.

While Bond is certainly more approachable than a vigilante hell-bent on destroying his foes,

the Communications student displays Punisher-like characteristics when he plays the game that flows in his DNA.

Bond plays with an obvious vendetta against anyone who would dare challenge him for possession of the ball.

lambda@laurentian.ca

Illustration provided by Marvel Comics

Punisher is the most feared hero/vigilante in the Marvel Universe. He never compromises and never surrenders.



LU prof holds first art show

BY NINA NESSETH

Laurentian University biology professor and photographer, Charles Ramcharan, held his first gallery opening at The Fromagerie Elgin on Feb. 3rd. The gallery, titled “A World of Wonders - Surprising Landscapes From Canada’s Arctic” features photographed landscapes from Baffin Island, Nunavut. Ramcharan took the photographs over the course of two separate summers spent working for companies that were installing weather-monitoring equipment in Nunavut.

While some of the images in the collection include what one would expect to see of arctic scenery – rocky mountains and tundra, and a palette of blues, grays, whites, and browns – Ramcharan also captured startling landscapes that appear to have been plucked directly from a Ray Bradbury novel.

“It’s alien,” exclaimed Ramcharan. “I’ve never seen so much colour. You wouldn’t expect the arctic to have purple beaches and bright green or orange lakes.”

The colours are indeed striking. Most of the photos are aerial shots taken from a helicopter or plane and small lakes connected by streams look like strings of bright gems. Ramcharan speculated that the unusual colours might be caused by bacteria or by minerals in the waters.

“There has only been one photographer other than myself who has photos like these – a contract photographer for the National Geographic,” said Ramcharan, “You can’t find these images on the web. You can’t Google them.”

You may not be able to find these stunning images online (trust me, I’ve tried), but you are able to see

their locations: for all of his photos, Ramcharan has recorded the GPS coordinates, so that people might enter the coordinates into applications such as Google Earth to view satellite images of the landscapes. However, satellite images are a far cry from the scenes that “A World of Wonders” has captured.

In spite of the uniqueness of his collection of photographs, Ramcharan remains humble about his art: “A long time ago, when I was in school, I had to make a choice between arts and science, and I did choose science. I gave up photography for a long time, but then I thought ‘why can’t I do both?’ and I’ve since been trying to rediscover it.”

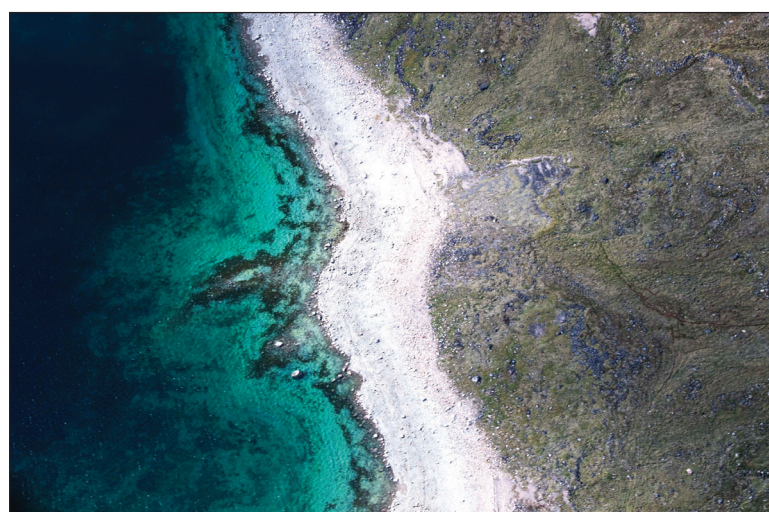
Ramcharan is hoping to open a second gallery in the fall that will feature some of his more abstract photographs from his Baffin Island shoots. He also hinted at summer plans for a new photo series, this time featuring the Sudbury area “from an angle that nobody has done yet”.

“A World of Wonders” will run until Mar. 10th at the Fromagerie Elgin, which is located downtown near the corner of Elgin and Cedar, across from the Farmer’s Market.

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Photos supplied

Previews of Charles Ramcharan’s artwork
(Above, left).



Students protest tuition rates in Toronto



Photo by Ryan Neal

Students march in the streets of Toronto as part of the Drop Fees demonstration. Sixty-one students represented LAurentian, from Sudbury.

Lady Vees eliminated from playoff contention

BY RON GUILLET

The Laurentian Lady Vees' basketball team has been eliminated from playoff contention.

The Lady Vees would have had to win the remainder of its games, while also needing the York Lions to lose theirs, for a chance to make the post-season. While the young team has fallen short, it boasts a developing core that could turn the tides next season.

The Lady Vees' first game in its three-game road trip had them up against the Lions on Friday, Feb.3. Laurentian's offensive woes plagued them throughout the game, but the defense shone through to keep it a close game. The Lady Vees narrowed out the first quarter with a 9-7 lead, but couldn't sustain the pressure in the second quarter as the Lions hemmed the Vees in its own end, outscoring Laurentian 17-6. It was a tale of two halves, however, as the Lady Vees surged in the third quarter with its playoff hopes on the line. Laurentian's Emma Decloe, who finished with 20 points and 14 rebounds, led the Lady Vees' offense. Laurentian was aggressive on the ball and found the scoring lanes to put the Lions on its heels, taking the quarter 18-10. The fourth quarter was frantic with both

teams exchanging scoring chances, but the Lions ultimately won the game 50-49, clinching a playoff spot and eliminating the Lady Vees from contention.

Next on the road trip was a game against the Toronto Varsity Blues on Friday, Feb.9. Despite being eliminated from playoff contention the Lady Vees started the game on a positive note, applying pressure in the offensive end. Decloe once again led the Vees with 13 points, but the Blues regained its composure in the second quarter and put the Lady Vees on its heels for the remainder of the game. Laurentian outplayed Toronto in the fourth quarter but it was too little too late as they dropped the game 69-51.

The Lady Vees then played the Ryerson Rams on Saturday, Feb.11. It was a tightly-contested match but Laurentian's offensive woes and inexperience came to the forefront once again. Amanda McDonald led the Vees with 12 points and 5 rebounds, but Laurentian would fall just out of reach with a 58-51 defeat.

The Lady Vees will close out its season next weekend with games against the RMC Paladins and the Queen's Gaels on home court.

ronguillet@gmail.com



Archive photo

The Lady Vees close out the season this weekend at home.

Voyageurs battle for positioning as playoffs approach

BY RON GUILLET

The Laurentian Voyageurs' basketball team were looking to string some wins together in hopes of attaining the coveted home playoff game, but went 1-2 on the road trip and will now have to battle for fourth place.

The road trip began with the Voyageurs playing the York Lions on Friday, Feb.3. Laurentian applied offensive pressure from the onset, trying to take advantage of York's six-player lineup, but David Tyndale, who led the Lions with 26 points, kept the game close in the first quarter as Laurentian took the frame 23-22. The Voyageurs gained

momentum in the second quarter, however, as Manny Pasquale, who finished with 26 points and shot 55.6 per cent from the arc, led Laurentian offensively. As the game wore on, York's fatigue from a lack of roster players became apparent as the Voyageurs led 64-38 in shot attempts and ultimately won the game 108-78.

The Voyageurs played again on Friday, Feb.10, against the Toronto Varsity Blues. Laurentian once again started the game with pressure in the offensive end but Toronto replied quickly and didn't slow down, garnering a 58.3 per cent in field goal shooting. The Blues forced the Voyageurs

to take difficult shots and shut down the passing lanes. Laurentian struggled in its own end as well and allowed Toronto to lead 53-32 at half. Manny Pasquale, who produced 35 points, led the Voyageurs in the third quarter and chipped away at the 21-point lead, but the strong third quarter performance wasn't enough as the Blues' offensive talent shone through in the final frame with the Voyageurs losing 104-88.

Laurentian looked to rebound on Saturday, Feb.11, against the Ryerson Rams in hopes of attaining the third seed in the East division to host a playoff game. The Rams, however, had no plans of

relinquishing its position in the standings. The Voyageurs struggled to rebound from its loss the night before and couldn't get the same offensive production from its key players. Isiah Pasquale led the team with 25 points but the secondary scoring wasn't enough as they lost the game 100-80.

The Voyageurs will close out the regular season next weekend with games against the RMC Paladins and Queen's Gaels on home court.

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Numerous records broken at OUA swimming championships

BY LAMBDA STAFF

The OUA Swimming Championships wrapped up at Laurentian University and the theme of breaking records was apparent as five relay and 12 individual marks were set.

The record breaking party began on Thursday, Feb. 9, as the Western University Mustangs women's team won the 200m freestyle relay in a time of 1:44.86, breaking the record they set two years ago by over a second. That was soon followed by Heather Maitland (University of Toronto) with a time of 4:10.98 in the 400m freestyle, breaking a 17 year old record. Before the first set of medals was even handed out, Toronto's Frank Despond smashed a 27 year old record by almost 5 seconds, swimming the 400m freestyle in 3:48.63.

Toronto's Vanessa Treasure continued the trend in the 200m breaststroke as she broke an 18 year old record with a time of 2:29.90. Finally, it was Western's Hayley Nell reclaiming her record in the 50m freestyle, edging out McMaster's Sarah Taylor after Taylor set the record in the preliminaries.

On Friday, Feb. 10, Toronto's Vanessa Treasure set the first record of the night in the 100m breaststroke with a time of 1:10.94 and she will go for the breaststroke sweep tomorrow night in the 50m event after she set the mark in the 200m last night.

After Treasure lit the fuse, the rest of the swimmers took over rewriting the record books. Guelph's Alisha Harricharan set the mark in the 50m butterfly at 27.31s followed by Toronto's Mike

Smerek in the same discipline at 24.04s.

The most impressive swim of the night came from a pair of Toronto swimmers in the women's 800m freestyle. Bridget Coley and Heather Maitland were neck and neck all the way to the wall before Coley out-touched Maitland by a fingernail in a time of 8:38.49, 19 seconds ahead of 3rd place and destroying the 12 year old record by over 6 seconds.

It was then left to the relay teams to write some history as both 400m medley relay records were set. On the women's side, Toronto now holds the record with a time of 4:12.52 and the men's title belongs to Toronto as well with a time of 3:44.52.

McMaster's Konrad Bald set the first record of the final night in the 50m breaststroke with a

time of 28.40 in a preview of a great performance just an hour later. Bald and his McMaster teammates wrapped up the 2012 OUAs in style as they smashed the 4x100m freestyle relay record by five seconds with a time of 3:19.88 in the last event of the meet.

Sandwiched in between Bald's record setting races, Guelph's Alisha Harricharan set the mark in the 100m butterfly at 1:00.32 followed by Toronto's Mike Smerek in the same discipline at 53.57s. Toronto's Andrea Jurenovskis set the record in the 50m backstroke with a time of 28.44s and the Western women's relay team bettered their mark in the 4x100 freestyle relay with a time of 3:47.15.

After winning both the 200m and 400m IM, Toronto's Vanessa Treasure and McMaster's

Cameron Bailey were named the winners of the Dr. Jenő Tihanyi Awards for Individual Medley Excellence. Both athletes were also named female and male Swimmer of the Meet, respectively.

Western currently took the women's banner with 954.5 points, followed by Toronto with 713.5 and McMaster with 560.5. Toronto topped the men's side with 816 points, followed by McMaster with 671 and Western with 638.

For the home town Laurentian squad, Brittany Maltais and Emily Jones both reached the podium on the final day of competition. Maltais won the 50m breaststroke in a time of 32.65s and Jones was third in the 50m backstroke, clocking in at 29.60s.

lambda@laurentian.ca



Photo supplied

The Lady Vees earned two OUA-qualifying marks and two personal bests.

Laurentian runners earn OUA-qualifying marks

BY LAMBDA STAFF

The Laurentian women's track team traveled south of the border this weekend, competing at the Valentine Invitational in Boston. Hosted by Boston University, the meet featured a large field of athletes from dozens of NCAA Division 1, 2 and 3 universities plus a selection of schools from Canada.

The Lady Vees returned with two OUA-qualifying marks and two personal bests.

Senior Emma Tallman (Mindemoya), ran a season-best time of 2:54.72 in the 1000m to place 2nd in her heat and 12th overall in a field of 72 runners. Tallman's time was her second-best performance, all-time.

Rookie Katie Wismer

(Sudbury), ran a 40-second personal best time of 10:20.26 and qualified for the OUAs in the 3000m. Wismer led her heat for most of the race, eventually finishing 2nd in her section of 18 runners and 45th overall.

Second-year runner, Morgan Rammo (Toronto), ran an eight-second personal best time of 3:01.93 in the 1000 metres to place 3rd in her heat and 37th overall. Rammo's time qualifies her for the OUA Championship in two weeks.

Adrienne Wilson (Kitchener) placed 110th in the mile event with a time of 5:23.60.

"It's a fast track and this meet will have as many as 200 athletes in a single event, so the competition and the atmosphere lead to excellent times," said head

coach, Dick Moss. "Adrienne hasn't been feeling 100 per cent for a couple of weeks and didn't have a good race, but Emma is definitely rounding into shape and Morgan and Katie had great performances."

The Lady Vees next competition is the Hal Brown Invitational this Friday at the University of Toronto.

Laurentian Results:

1000m: 12, Emma Tallman, 2:54.72

37, Morgan Rammo, 3:01.93 (PB - OUA Qualifier)

3000m: 45, Katie Wismer, 10:20.26 (PB - OUA Qualifier)

Mile: 110, Adrienne Wilson, 5:23.60

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NHL trade deadline approaches

BY RON GUILLET

With the Feb. 27 National Hockey League trade deadline looming, countless players have been circulating the ever-churning rumour mill.

One of the big names linked to the Toronto Maple Leafs was James van Riemsdyk after TSN's Darren Dreger reported general manager Brian Burke coveted the 22-year-old forward. But speculation came to a halt when "JvR" suffered a concussion. Van Riemsdyk was out indefinitely but has begun skating recently, which has roused reports again that Burke may target him. Despite speculation that Luke Schenn would be the centerpiece in any deal that lands van Riemsdyk, Burke has reiterated that his

22-year-old defenseman is not on the market.

Brenden Morrow's name also emerged almost instantly after TSN's Bob McKenzie reported that the 33-year-old forward might be on the market. Morrow has a full no-trade clause, so he would have to approve any potential deal. He'd infuse some leadership into the line-up as well as some grit. It remains to be seen, however, if there will be an extended list of teams willing to relinquish future assets and/or a top-six forward. Considering Morrow's impact would be short-term, Stanley Cup contenders will likely target him at the trade deadline if he is, in fact, available.

Jeff Carter's name has surfaced, but Dreger has reported

that several teams are wary about taking on his 10-year, \$5.25-million cap-hit. Carter is capable of producing at an elite level and he is by no means a one-dimensional player (34 blocks, 26 giveaways, 43 takeaways in 2009-10; 41 blks, 29 GvA, 40 TkA in 2010-11) but his contract is a concern. If a general manager is willing to take the risk, however, his value may be diminished for the simple fact that he wants out of Columbus and his contract is huge.

Speaking of the Blue Jackets, Rick Nash is a regular on the rumour mill. It's worth noting that Nash has a cap-hit of \$7.8-million and is signed through the 2017-18 season. If Carter proves too difficult to move, or if teams simply don't offer what Columbus

is seeking, it could mean the end of the Nash era if the Blue Jackets want to rebuild and acquire some depth in the form of prospects and roster players.

The Anaheim Ducks' three star players in Ryan Getzlaf, Bobby Ryan and Corey Perry have been circulating the rumour mill for months. The rumours are no doubt in correlation with the Ducks' collapse in the standings. Anaheim general manager Bob Murray has shot down reports that he's shopping any of the trio, but with his team 9 points removed from the playoffs and five teams to leapfrog, the Ducks will be faced with a tough scenario considering they need depth upfront. There has also been speculation of a possible trade involving Teemu

Selanne to the Winnipeg Jets, but whether a deal will be reached remains to be seen.

Tuomo Ruutu has been linked to several teams in the midst of trade deadline rumours, and Dreger had previously reported that there was a chance he could have been dealt last week. But recent reports suggest that the Hurricanes are attempting to resign the pending unrestricted free agent if the term and cap-hit fits with the team's long-term plan. If that doesn't happen within the next week or two, expect Ruutu to be shipped on Feb. 27 or sooner.

TSN will air its NHL trade deadline show on Feb. 27 starting at 8 a.m., so circle your calendar and make sure to tell your boss you'll be sick that day.
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Three Canadian teams likely to make playoffs

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

Canadian fans of the NHL often cheers for Canadian teams in the playoffs, even if their favourite team does not make it to the dance.

Whether you agree with the geography argument or not, that is the reality of the situation.

With that being said, there was not a whole lot for Canadians to get excited about last season.

Only the Montreal Canadiens, who finished in sixth place in the Eastern Conference, and the Vancouver Canucks, who finished in first place in the West, represented Canada.

The Canucks were seen as a legitimate contender – despite their lack of recent playoff success – but the Canadiens were minnows.

The odds were right as the Canucks made it to the Stanley Cup Final and Montreal bowed out in the first round, albeit with a good series against the eventual-Cup-winning Boston Bruins.

It seems Canadian fans will have more cheering to do this post-season however, as it is likely there will be at least three Canadian teams in the playoffs.

While nothing is set in stone, the current standings (as of Friday, Feb. 10) show three Canadian teams in the playoff picture, with three others in the hunt for a spot – sorry Edmonton Oilers fans, but

13 points back in the West seems too big a hole to climb out of.

The Calgary Flames only sit two points out of the eighth spot in the West, while Winnipeg sits only four points out of eighth in the East. Montreal is a long-shot at nine points back, but they are not completely eliminated yet.

The odds are against Montreal, and the chances of them making a run for the eighth spot is slim at best. They don't appear to have the roster for that sort of late-season heroics.

Their defensive-style hockey is still treating them well, unfortunately they are unable to score much this season. Their offense ranks tenth in the league, which is curiously close to their current plateau in 11th-place.

The East is a close battle, and the Ottawa Senators, Toronto Maple Leafs, and Winnipeg Jets are all in the tussle for playoff spots. Ottawa sits in seventh, and Toronto in eighth, but neither team is anywhere close to pulling away from the pack.

Ottawa was sailing clear until a recent seven-game losing streak derailed their fourth-place position. The senators are looking to re-establish some stability, and climb out of the bottom few playoff spots, but they are young and inconsistent.

The Maple Leafs had won four of five games to hop back


into the playoff picture before dropping their last two games to Eastern teams – including the Jets. Toronto is a border-line playoff team, with an explosive offensive but implosive defense. They will have to tighten up their defensive end of the game, and get some consistent goaltending, if they hope to make it to the big dance this spring.

Despite being only four points and one game out of the eighth playoff spot, the Jets are a wild card. Their roster is weak on skill, but their work ethic is strong. Their offense is near the basement of the East, and they will need a small miracle to play meaningful hockey after the season ends.

The Flames also suffer from a weak offense. They are a stellar home team, but fail miserably on the road. They are not out of the playoff race yet, but they need to hope Mike Cammalleri lives up to his reputation of clutch scoring if they hope to compete for the Cup.

Vancouver is secure in second place, and should hold on to be a contender again this spring. They will be hoping the loss in the Finals has motivated them to reach the next level.


Anyway you slice it, Canadian fans should have a minimum of three teams to watch in the playoffs this season, which is a nice improvement from last season.
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Rabey's round-up: January signings

BY MATT RABEY

With the January transfer window now closed and club's squads finalized until the end of the season, its time to look at how successful manager's selections have been. Feb.6saw the return of prolific striker Luis Suarez who had been serving an 8-match ban for racist remarks against Patrice Evra, bringing to the forefront the issue of racism tarnishing the beautiful game. Fabio Capello has resigned from the position of England manager at a time when England need stability most as the Euro is looming in the near future. Finally, the Zambian captain in the African Cup of Nations Christopher Katongo has earned something very unique for his excellent showing in the tournament, a promotion in the army.

The January transfer window is now closed with the Queen's Park Rangers being the busiest of the Premier League clubs. With astute signing like Bobby Zamora and Djibril Cissé showing immediate dividends as both scored on their debut for the club. Elsewhere on Tyneside Alan Pardew was busy bringing in one of the best signings of this transfer window in Papisse Cissé. The Senegalese striker has been warranting large amounts of attention in the German Bundesliga featuring for SC Freiburg where he managed to be the runner up for top goal scorer in the 2010-2011 season. He has been given the legendary number 9 shirt once worn by Alan Shearer and thus far, after scoring a beautiful

goal on his debut it seems, it is warranted. Other signings to catch the eye include Swansea's signing of Josh McEachran, David Pizzaro to Manchester City, the return on loan for Thierry Henry to Arsenal and Robbie Kean to Aston Villa and Chelsea's signing of Gary Cahill.

Kenney Daglish has been quoted saying that he does not believe Suarez should have been punished, an utterly ridiculous statement because it either means that he is fine with racism or that he believes racism is a minor offence only deserving of a slap on the wrist. This compliancy towards racism is not limited to the Liverpool manager, as this season as seen multiple instances of overt racism. For example, John Terry has been charged with racist remarks towards Anton Ferdinand. Terry has yet to have his trial, but a contingent of Chelsea fans banded together in preparation to chant, "Anton Ferdinand, you know what you are." Fortunately, authorities became aware of this prior to the actual FA Cup clash between QPR and Chelsea and warned that anyone caught chanting this would be met with the harshest penalties possible. Yet the fact that some Chelsea supports were prepared to do this proves that the problem is not just with some of the players and managers, but some the fans as well.

Also tied into the problem of racism is the shock resignation of England manager Fabio Capello. The English FA decided that due to the charges brought against John

Terry he must no longer captain England until after the trial and only if proved innocent. By doing this the FA usurped Capello as manger, who should be imparting this decision on his own, a decision that he says should not be made unless Terry is found guilty. While a strong stance against racism must be taken, the law states that the individual is innocent until proven guilty. Capello should be commended for taking this stance especially since to do what is right cost him a £6million position. This now places the English FA in an awkward position, as they have selected new manager Stuart Pearce as temporary caretaker, with his first test coming against powerhouse Holland and the Euro Cup only a few months away.

The African Cup of Nations has been well worth watching this year with upsets and the unexpected ever present. Yet the most unexpected thing to come out of the tournament is a promotion in the military for Zambia's captain. The announcement was made by Zambia's army spokesman in a statement saying: "The president of the republic of Zambia and commander in chief of the armed forces his excellence Michael Chilufya Sata, has promoted Zambia national soccer team captain Christopher Katongo to warrant officer class one with immediate effect for displaying exemplary leadership and skill in the team which has contributed to the team's good performance."

lambda@laurentian.ca

Intramural: The people who make it work

BY LAURA THIRKILL

The Intramural Program at Laurentian University has started another set of sports this month.

Six-on-six Volleyball and three-on-three Basketball are well underway. Badminton and Table Tennis are coming up next.

We have many people working for Voyageur Campus Recreation to make the Intramural Program run and many of these people are students. This article will introduce you to a few more of the people who work to make Intramural Sports run so well.

Lisa Watson is a fourth year Concurrent Sport and Physical Education from Newmarket, Ontario. Lisa is the captain of the Women's Varsity Soccer Team and has been involved in the intramural program as a participant, convenor and official over the past four years. Lisa hopes to become a secondary school teacher after finishing her fifth year here at Laurentian University next year. Lisa says that she "loves Laurentian for its close knit community atmosphere". She loves always seeing people that she knows and truly feels at home here. She says that she "loves Laurentian Intramurals as they are well organized, competitive and fun". When one sport finishes she counts the days until the next one begins.

Cailey Robertson is a third year Sport and Physical Education student from Milton, Ontario who is working for Voyageur Campus Recreation this year as a Referee

and Scorekeeper. Cailey became involved with the Intramural Program in her first year as a player and became a convenor for the Intramural Volleyball League during her second year. Upon graduation Cailey plans to travel and then become a Physical Education teacher in a Secondary School. Cailey has been very involved in the Laurentian Community as a varsity soccer player and trainer. She enjoys the fun atmosphere at Laurentian and in the School of Human Kinetics and loves all the friends she has made over her three years here.

Lars Nilsson is a fifth year ADVL student from Cornwall, PEI who is working for the Voyageur Campus Recreation Department this year as a referee. Lars has been involved as a player for the last four years and is a member of the School of Human Kinetics Student Association and also is a representative on the SGA Board. Upon graduation this year Lars hopes to travel to the mountains of British Columbia. Lars' favourite part of the Intramural program is being surrounded by a great group of people.

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LU offers unique pick-up soccer experience

BY MATT RABEY

The Alphonse Raymond gym at Laurentian University hosts pick-up soccer every Saturday that offers a multicultural and diverse experience.

Whether you want to just mess around or get good exercise, as recent participant Todd Belrose states, all are welcome and included. The games are played with teams of four facing off against each other in rotating fashion and if you don't have a team don't worry, all find a place. The games are played to one goal and last a maximum

of five minutes, with some being as short as 13 seconds. When someone scores, the losing team makes way for the next four and the winners defend their title. However, if neither team scores within the five-minute time limit, both lose and clear the floor to make way for two new teams.

The levels of commitment, skill and competition also vary with attendees like Saudi Arabian exchange student Tinad Alshambari who shows up when he can, to Abidalkhalik Kanvegi who shows up every Saturday. Passion for the game is in high

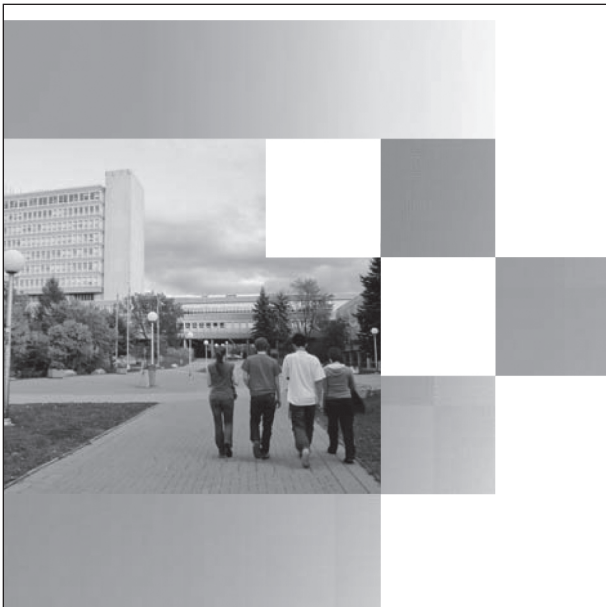
supply with participants like Cybille Tillet showing up for the last three years. Tillet was originally an exchange student from Côte d'Ivoire and found out about the Saturday soccer while doing an undergraduate degree in economics. Now having graduated two years ago and become a permanent resident of Canada, Tillet still makes the time come out and play every Saturday.

The celebration of diversity is inspiring with people showing up from various backgrounds including: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Latin America, to

name a few. Public relations representative for the Hispanic Club, Shayan Dehdashti, says, "It's about people from all around the world coming out to play a sport that they all love. It's the international game that brings people together, but at the end of the day, it's just a good time."

Those who would like to join can come out Saturdays at 4 p.m. and bring running shoes, a good attitude and plenty of water.

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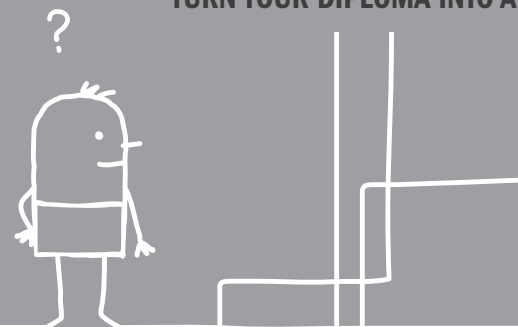
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Laurentian University sets bold targets for 3017

HUMOUR BY NICHOLAS TRYNE

Not resting on their laurels, the team behind LU Strategic Plan 2017 set their sights on mapping out the University’s initiatives for 3017. The reason? “It is never too early to start making wildly exaggerated claims about where we see this University in the future,” explained Richard Johnson, the head of the Strategic planning team. “You have to understand there is still a slight possibility some of the administration might be here in 2017 to see their plans fall short. We originally picked the year 2017 to eliminate this possibility, so that none of them could ever be questioned on why they didn’t accomplish their strategic plans from 5 years ago. But by setting the next benchmark for 3017 there is absolutely no chance the administration that makes the plans will be here to see that their plans failed miserably.” He then turned and winked, “Impossible, that is, unless strategic plan 12 “Find a vaccine for immortality” comes through.”

Some of the goals the 2017 Strategic Plan outlines are:

1)Be among the top 1% of Canadian Universities in terms of student satisfaction and student mutant powers

To achieve this by 3017 we will have:

-Used our death ray to destroy 99% of the other Canadian Universities

-Integrated classroom learning with particle accelerators to give natural selection a much need boost

-Dynamic new student experiences in new social spaces (e.g. outer space) that nurture a strong sense of community and belonging (aided by our telepaths who will convince you to “belong”)

-Proactively supporting emerging new sports like “Anti-gravity comet races” and “Electro-shock mind wrestling” and “Women’s hockey”.

2)Laurentian University will be people’s first choice destination with a reputation of being almost zombie free, and having a strong gravitational pull that will attract first rate students from Canada, around the world and several of the lunar colonies.

To achieve this by 3017 we will have:

-Created a truce with the alien invaders that only demands a tribute of 400 quattoons a year

- Strategically increased enrollment from 7,200 FTE to 1,109,803 FTE (through cloning) while increasing the average grade entry from 80.8% to 99.8% (by giving everyone a 19% bonus mark for enrolling in LU)

-Become 1000% wireless (by adding a zero at the end of 100%)

-Established Laurentian University as a destination for alien invaders with our pro-tentacle special needs policies.

-Increased number of students who have enriched gravitations fields

3)We will be known for our positive organizational culture

To achieve this by 3017 we will have:

-Change the meaning of the word “negative” so that it now means “positive”

-Put 100 years and tens of thousands of man hours into meetings that help us get organized

-Spend one trillion dollars into research of how to artificially

replicate “culture” in a culture-less environment

When asked what the point of making goals they might not accomplish is Johnson explained, “It is important to set goals so that we have something to aim for and focus our energies on. While phrases like “community responsiveness” and “organization excellent” and, my

personal favourite “engages you in an exception way” don’t actually mean anything, to the casual reader they will seem like they mean something. And in this troubled economic time it is very important that we seem to be doing something. Actually doing something would cost money that we don’t have.
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Preventing colds and flus

BY COLLIN, MARC AND THOMAS

Yes, it is still that time of the year. Colds and the flu are abundant and spreading quickly around the university. In an effort to keep ourselves and fellow students healthy this winter we can all be smart and play our part in helping slow the spread of these annoying bugs caused by viruses.

Very simple precautions such as washing your hands before eating, or after coming in close contact with others can drastically reduce the rate of transmission of many different pathogens (germs). Viruses can be spread through the air, or on surfaces, so please don't sneeze all over everyone. That also means viruses can move from the hand you coughed on, to a doorknob, to your friend's hand, to their lunch. A little extra virus won't change how lunch tastes, but it will sure change how you feel the next week. Also, be careful not to touch your face and if you are sick, try to cough or sneeze into a tissue

or your sleeve rather than onto your hands.

To actually catch the cold or flu, you must come into contact with the virus; simply going outside without a coat on won't cause it. Sorry Mom. Research indicates that cold temperatures do not impair your body's immune response. This means you are just as likely to be sick with the flu over reading week in Cuba as here in Sudbury. Some studies have suggested that cold temperatures and low humidity (winter weather) make it easier for viruses to spread through the air. Cold air makes virus particles more stable and the water droplets you breathe out are slightly different. The big reasons people catch "the rez bug" in the winter has to do with our behaviour when it's cold out. Staying inside crowded places, like lecture halls, residence, or pub increase your chances of being exposed to a virus. Once you come into contact with a virus; stress, a poor diet, reduced physical activity, and less

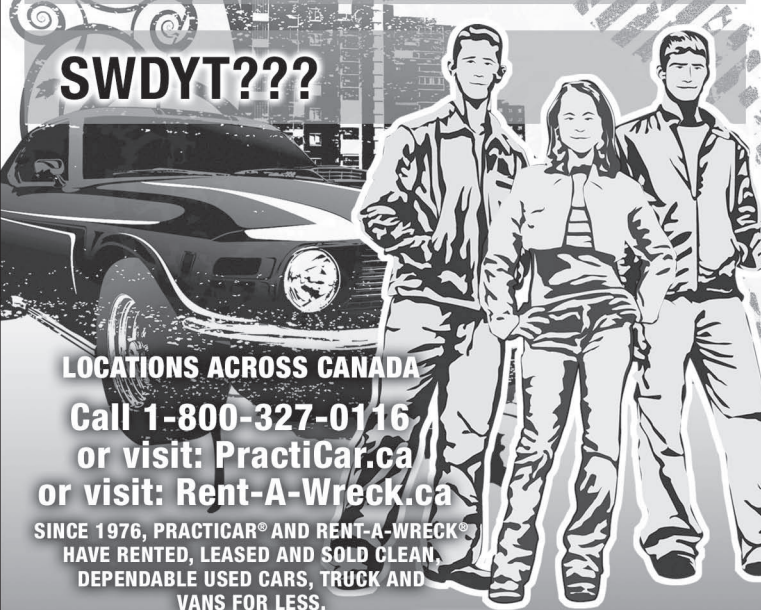
exposure to sunlight make it more difficult for your body to fight it off.

In the unfortunate event that you catch one of these bugs, you can begin transmitting it before symptoms are even present. A person can spread the flu as early as one day after they were exposed and may not even show symptoms until the following day. A person can usually spread a cold or flu virus for five to seven days after they catch it. After seven days it usually won't be passed on anymore, even if the person still looks and feels sick. In general, if you are sick, wash your hands regularly and be careful where you cough so it doesn't get your friends and classmates too! Coughing into your elbow is much better than coughing into your hands.

For some quick and dirty tips on how to maintain a robust diet so you are better equipped to fight off infection, read our next article. lambda@laurentian.ca

LOL--LOOK WHAT I RENTED FOR THE WEEKEND!!! :-P

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In the Communication publique program, a group of 8 students produce and execute an hour-long radio show on the airwaves of CKLU 96.7 FM. Each Monday, the group discusses the latest news, weather and sports. They also play a variety of music, based on their styles and interests... and it's all in French!

"This opportunity allows students to discover the work involved in radio production. Having the opportunity to find content, go through the planning and the production of a show on air is an amazing experience. It gives students their own voice and a medium through which they can express themselves", expressed Nathalie Depatie, Communication Officer at the UofS.

Although they were all very nervous about doing their first show, Fanny Roy explained that they were able to pull it off by working together. They realized just how much preparation was required for an hour-long show and that it required a strong team and great communication.

"Écoute pas ça" airs every Monday, from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm on CKLU 96.7 FM, until March 30th, 2012. You can follow the students on Twitter by searching #CPUB.

Communication publique is a French-language program where students learn to accomplish the actual daily tasks carried out by journalists or public relations specialists, including writing, gathering information, organizing it and presenting it to varied audiences.

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